

respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested for the following reasons.

The Examiner has stated that "[c]laim 1 differs from Knotek in calling for the needle to be bent" but that "it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to include a bent needle". Irrespective of whether or not it would have been obvious to include a bent needle, it would not have been obvious to construct an anti-stick device able to accommodate a bent needle, as disclosed and claimed by applicant.

Claim 1, the only independent claim in the application, requires three panels, namely, "a needle-holding panel, a base panel, and a covering panel." These panels are folded in an overlapping fashion.

"said needle-holding panel is folded down onto said base panel and . . . said covering panel is folded down onto said needle-holding panel and fixed thereto"

Knotek employs a parallelogram structure and does not have a separate needle-holding panel. Moreover, claim 1 provides structure for containing "the distal branch" of the needle.

"said needle-holding panel and said covering panel are fixed to one another and are spaced from said base panel and form, between themselves and said base panel, a space which is sufficient to contain said distal branch of said needle"

Knotek's straight needle has no distal branch corresponding to the one found in a bent needle and his puncture prevention device

includes no structure for containing a distal branch of a needle as disclosed and claimed by applicant.

Although superficially similar to applicant's device insofar as both seek to prevent unwanted sticking by a needle, applicant's device, as claimed, requires a specific shape to be assumed by the device which is not characteristic of Knotek. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

An unpaid fee required to keep this case alive may be charged to deposit account 06-0735.

Respectfully Submitted,

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